Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Each year on August 7th, Americans should pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. The Purple Heart is awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces that has been wounded or died as a result of a wound in battle; and,

Whereas, The Medal now known as the Purple Heart actually began as the "Badge of Military Merit." On August 7th, 1782, in Newburgh, New York, General George Washington ordered the creation of a badge of distinction for enlisted men and noncommissioned officers; and,

Whereas, The Badge of Military Merit was redesigned and became known as the Purple Heart. This new design was issued on the bicentennial of George Washington's birth and General Douglas MacArthur was the first recipient of the Purple Heart; and,

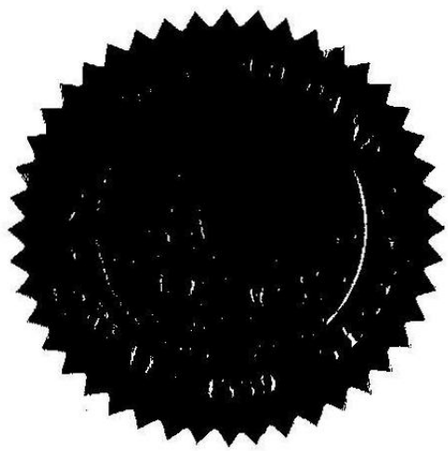
Whereas, During the early period of American involvement in World War II, the Purple Heart was awarded both for wounds received in action against the enemy and for meritorious performance of duty. With the establishment of the Legion of Merit by an Act of Congress, the practice of awarding the Purple Heart for meritorious service was discontinued by Executive Order 9277 dated December 3, 1942. This executive order authorized the award only for wounds received; and,

Whereas, On this day, it is our patriotic duty to remember and recognize those people willing to serve our country, no matter the price:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 7, 2012, as

PURPLE HEART DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventeenth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Judy A. Larson, Exec. Asst.

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State